JOHN HONTELEZ
Minister Elandstraat 27
6523 CS Nijmegen
The Netherlands
Tel. (0)80-236512

TL 6483-32

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to: East Timor Solidarity Groups
Meeting 28th and 29th
in Göttingen

Brussels, March 19th 1987

John Hontelez,
assistant Bram van der Lek, Member
of the European Parliament for the
Green-Progressive Accord (The Netherlands)

Dear friends,

In January I told some of you that we wanted to provoke a discussion with the belgian president of the Council of Ministers of the EEC about the "operasie Kikis" and the british involvement through arms-trade. Therefore we wrote an "oral question" (I admit, it sounds a bit strange) for the february meeting of the European Parliament. We received information from TAPOL and Abilio Araujo to be able to add some questions (thank you for that). But nevertheless, everything went wrong. Bram informed some portuguese members about his question, and asked them to take part in the discussion. But to our surprise, another Portuguese member, mr. Barros Moura (Com.) also had a question on eastern timor, which was placed before ours. Mr. Barros Moura asked whether the EEC had protested against the East Timor policy of Indonesia during the EEC-ASEAN-conference in Jakarta in autumn last year (See Enclosure 1). Tindemans, as being foreign minister in charge, answered that Eastern Timor is not a responsibility of the EEC. Moura added a question and also Van der Lek was possible to add a question, but to our surprise, the other portuguese members that were there, remained silent.
Our question on "operasie kikis" appeared to be too low on the list. Time ran out. And the Minister answered our question, in writing, as follows:
"the rules of the European political cooperation in principal do not allow to answer to questions that relate to the own politics of one or several member-states".

Conclusions: -apparently the portuguese eastern-timor solidarity groups or Fretilin did not know that mister Moura was going to do something on this subject.

-apparently the other portuguese members were not prepared to be involved in a discussion on Eastern Timor.

So, our suggestion is; please contact members of the European Parliament when you know a debate can take place, ask them to prepare.

Apart from this little report, we want to tell you that the report of mrs. Van den Heuvel on "the human rights situation in Indonesia and Eastern Timor", to be written partly as a reaction to our motion for a resolution on the responsibility of the EEC for solving the situation in Eastern Timor (30-10-1985, PE 101.851) has not been finished yet. It seems to go very slowly.

I enclose propaganda materials the Indonesian Embassy in Brussels sent us.

Have a good meeting